



Native American Network



Special OSWER Edition

Solid Waste Perspective: Rural Alaska Villages

As EPA continues to focus on issues important to Indian Tribes, we've directed our attention to the unique problems facing Alaska Natives, particularly in the area of rural sanitation. Assistant Administrator Elliott Laws, along with Region 10 and Alaska EPA staff, had an opportunity to visit three remote villages in Alaska this past August.

Their travels took them to Togiak in the Bristol Bay region (southwest Alaska), a

fishing village of approximately 700 people, to Kongiganak on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (a village of approximately 300 people) and finally to Northway in interior Alaska. While each village faces situations unique to the location and geography of their respective regions, there were many similarities in how the communities addressed their problems.

The village of Togiak has been working under the leadership of EPA AmeriCorps member Brian Abraham to address solid waste problems. The garbage dump, located just off the shore of Togiak Bay, was not contained within an enclosed area and there were automobile batteries and appliances in evidence throughout, along with discarded vehicles. A fire was burning unattended. Driving through town, Brian pointed out the trash barrels he had made out of oil drums, areas where he and students conducted clean-up activities on Earth Day and the storage shed he was planning to convert to a battery storage facility. His biggest activity, he advised his visitors, was in community education on solid waste issues. Though progress had been slow, solutions were coming from within and under local leadership.

On their second day in Alaska the group flew to Bethel, then hopped a small plane for a one-hour flight to the village of Kongiganak at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River. They visited the solid waste dump site located three miles away from the community by skiff. During the winter, residents have to haul their garbage over land by snow mobile to the dump site making transport difficult and dangerous.

The third day the group traveled to Tok where they were met by staff of the Tanana Chiefs Conference who took them by car on the last leg of their trip to Northway. Northway is a small ►

National Tribal Conference '96

The Third National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management will be moving west this year. This year's conference will be hosted by the Flathead Nation of Montana. The conference will be at the Kwa Taq Nuk Resort located on the beautiful Flathead Lake in northern Montana. The conference will address multimedia issues throughout Indian country and an environmental vendor exhibit is also planned. All tribes are eagerly encouraged to attend to help this year's conference be bigger and better than the previous two. If you would like more information regarding the conference, please call Bill Swaney, Division of Environmental Protection, Flathead Nation at (406) 675-2700. (See page 7).



Elliott Laws, Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Rural Alaska (cont'd)

village located 1 1/2 miles off the Alaskan Highway with a population of just over 100. The residents of Northway (a town which was once part of the Lend/Lease operation), were trying to focus attention on removing debris left behind by the federal government. While the Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a cleanup of just the contaminated containers, old rusted cans and oil drums that were empty littered

the top of the ground. Region 10 and Headquarters are currently evaluating the FY 96 budget for possible assistance to the village in its cleanup efforts.

In summary, the unique characteristics of Alaska require that state and federal agencies consider the logistics of doing business there—the geographic characteristics and climate that sometimes require more costly approaches, the cost to operate facilities, the expense and time involved in traveling from point to point, and the high cost of

living. While funding is a big part of the solution to rural sanitation problems, it must go hand in hand with local initiatives and a partnership between local governments and state and federal agencies, as well as a recognition of local preferences by state and federal officials. For more information, contact Charlene Dunn in EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response at (202) 260-9466, or Kathy Veit, EPA Region 10 at (206) 553-1983. ■

EPA Rule Delays Compliance Date for Small Landfills

EPA published a final rule (60 FR 52337; October 6, 1995) extending the general compliance date for small municipal solid waste landfills (MSWLFs) located in either dry or remote locations. EPA extended the compliance date for qualifying MSWLFs by two years, from October 9, 1995, to October 9, 1997. These small MSWLF units do not become subject to the federal landfill

criteria (found in 40 CFR Part 258) until October 9, 1997, unless a state or tribal program requires an earlier compliance date.

The final rule applies only to small MSWLFs that have no evidence of existing ground-water contamination, and are located in a remote or arid area (receiving less than 25 inches of precipitation annually).

In a related action, EPA plans to publish a final rule by October 1996 that allows small MSWLFs in dry or remote locations to conduct alternative ground-water monitoring on a case-by-case basis. ■

On March 26, 1996, President Clinton signed the Land Disposal Flexibility Act (PL-104-119) which provides needed reforms to certain municipal landfill ground-water monitoring requirements. See next issue for complete details.

First Tribal Pollution Prevention Conference a Success

Over 230 individuals from across the country came to Billings, Montana, for the first National Tribal Pollution Prevention Conference on August 15-17, 1995, at the Radisson Northern Hotel.

Native Americans were well represented at the conference. More than 60 tribes from 30 states and Canada were in attendance, and 26 of the 38 speakers were Native American. Conference participants were exposed to a wide variety of issues and participated in workshops and sessions which provided insight into pollution prevention (P2) principles and methods.

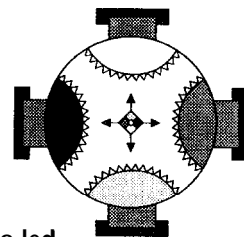
The conference featured several noteworthy keynote speakers: Billy Frank Jr., Director of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; Tom Maulson, Chair-

man of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation in Wisconsin; Gail Small, Executive Director of Native Action; and Bill Yellowtail, Regional Administrator for EPA, Region 8.

A three-hour workshop by motivational speaker and community wellness expert Don Coyhis—President, White Bison, Inc.—kicked off the conference and set the stage for P2 concepts and learning. Coyhis described the significance of the Medicine Wheel and the Healing Forest in preventing pollution and protecting the environment. One important theme throughout the workshop was that preventing pollution involves a change in behavior, and that any change must be preceded by a vision, the "seed"

from which action germinates. Coyhis led participants through innovative and stimulating exercises designed to raise awareness about environmental issues and change behavior.

There were 18 concurrent sessions throughout the conference, and participants had to choose from among three at a given time. Conference evaluations have been extremely positive and indicate that both the scope and content of the conference were both right on target. There is clearly widespread interest in holding a second annual conference. For additional information about the conference, contact Todd MacFadden at the Montana State Extension Office (406) 994-3451. ■



DO YOU KNOW . . .

Where to Look for EPA's Regulations?

The Federal Register, Regulatory Plan, and the Regulatory Agenda, are all sources where tribal governments can identify regulations issued by EPA. These publications can help tribal officials determine their priorities for getting involved in specific rules that are important to their local communities.

Distributed every weekday, except holidays, the Federal Register lists regulations issued by all federal agencies (such as EPA). The Regulatory Plan and Regulatory Agenda are summaries of EPA's regulations. The Plan, issued each November, outlines EPA's annual regulatory strategy, listing key policy initiatives and regulations. The Agenda, issued every November and April, contains a cumulative summary of the status of EPA regulations under development.

At the back of the Agenda are several indices. One is arranged by subject area and the other lists regulations expected to affect state and tribal governments. Once an individual has identified a regulation of interest to their community it is recommended that they call or write the EPA contact listed at the end of the particular Agenda entry to find out the current status of a specific regulation.

If you would like to get on the mailing list to receive a free copy of the Agenda, call or write Bridgette Dent at

the Regulation Development Branch, EPA, Mailcode 2136, Washington, D.C. 20460. Phone number (202) 260-5475.

Copies of the Federal Register are available to use at many local public libraries, federal depository libraries, and local colleges and universities. A list of depository libraries is available free, upon request, by writing to: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, (202) 512-1800.

EPA also has a public access server on the Internet (free of charge) where you can obtain Federal Register information, as well as other environmental information. Listed below are several addresses for logging on to the EPA server, depending upon what type of Internet access you might have.

- Gopher: gopher.epa.gov
- World Wide Web: <http://www.epa.gov/>
- Wide Area Information Server: wais.epa.gov
- File Transfer Protocol: ftp.epa.gov

For assistance with EPA's Public Access Server, contact EPA via e-mail at: internet_support@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov

For users of the IndianNet system, IndianNet is now piloting access to the Internet. Native American Network will update readers on this initiative.

Workshops on the Federal Register, "What It Is and How to Use It," are offered free of charge in selected cities across the country including Washington, DC. The workshops focus on the regulatory process and your role in the development of regulations. For further information, contact Fran McDonnell at (202) 523-4534.

For those unable to attend a workshop, a handbook entitled The Federal Register: What It Is and How to Use It provides guidelines for using the Federal Register and participating in the regulatory process. To order a copy contact the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, (202) 512-1800. The cost is \$7.00 per copy.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Federal Register, contact the Finding Aides Unit at (202) 523-5227 between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. EST.

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Eastern Tribes Try Their Hand at Composting

On October 25 - 27, tribal representatives from seven eastern tribes attended a composting school sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service, Departments of Agricultural Engineering and Horticulture, at the University of Maryland. The quality of training at the school is among the best in the nation. Tribes represented were: Eastern Band of Cherokee (North Carolina), Catawba (South Carolina), Poarch Creek Indians (Alabama), Miccosukee (Florida), Seminole (Florida),

Clifton Choctaw (Louisiana) and the Mississippi Band of Choctaws. Funding for the project resulted through the combined efforts of EPA's Office of Solid Waste and the U.S. Forest Service. The three-day course provided hands-on instruction about a variety of compost techniques directed toward different mixtures of compost materials. Attendees learned how to construct and maintain a compost facility, providing a foundation for the implementation of tribal composting programs.

Dr. Frank Gouin, professor emeritus in the Department of Horticulture at Maryland, will be providing technical assistance this winter to the Cherokees and the Catawba Nation to help them begin composting programs. The Catawbans are interested in yard materials composting, and the Cherokees are looking into establishing a wastewater sludge compost program. For more information, contact Dr. Rosalie Green of EPA at (703) 308-7268. ■

EPA and Morgan State University Host Environmental Ambassadors

EPA and Morgan State University (MSU) in Baltimore, MD, are partners in an innovative project to enhance environmental awareness in the education arena. In the summer of 1995, the Third EPA/MSU Summer Environmental Teachers Institute was held on the MSU campus.

The intensive two-week Institute was attended by 41 school teachers, representing 25 states, who will become "environmental ambassadors" in their communities. All of the participants teach in minority and/or economically disadvantaged communities with waste sites near their schools. Seven teachers work in Native American schools and many of the schools have a student body population with a high percentage of African-American, Asian and Hispanic students.

The institute offers teachers a unique hands-on opportunity to learn about environmental issues affecting their

neighborhoods plus a wide range of classroom activities. The teachers are a critical link in sharing their enhanced environmental awareness with their students, peers and communities.

The institute featured a number of field trips to ecological areas around the Baltimore area. Institute topics included: recycling and waste cleanup, environmental justice, pollution prevention, technology innovation, lead issues, environmental careers, and school-community involvement.

In conjunction with the Morgan State University Institute, an additional four



teacher institutes were held this summer in Regions 4, 5, 6, and 8. The institutes provide an effective mechanism to empower local communities through education. At the completion of the program, teachers received a stipend, graduate credits and environmental classroom materials. ■

EPA Brownfields Program

"Cities Redevelop Old Industrial Sites With EPA's Aid," "New Life for Birmingham, AL," "St Louis To Get Cleanup Money," "New EPA Program May Help Cities," "US EPA Gives Waste Site Cleanup Funds to 29 Cities."

These headlines represent just a handful of the national news articles describing EPA's Brownfields Program since the Administrator announced the effort in January 1995. Since then, interest in OSWER's effort to assess, clean up and redevelop abandoned properties—known as Brownfields—has been tremendous. Hundreds of conferences, devoted solely to the issue of Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment, have been hosted by the American Bar Association, numerous cities and local governments, a variety of associations and countless others. The high participation rate at Brownfields conferences has far exceeded expectations.

So what are Brownfields and what is EPA's program to address them? Brownfields

are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. The present Superfund law (CERCLA) creates severe impediments to cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated property due to fear of liability on the part of lenders, real estate developers and investors. The results have been blighted urban centers, which are rife with abandoned factory shells, creating safety and health risks for residents, joblessness and a sense of hopelessness in our nation's inner cities. EPA's Brownfields program is designed to turn that phenomenon around.

In January 1995, EPA Administrator Browner unveiled the Brownfields Action Agenda, a comprehensive approach to empower states, communities and other stakeholders interested in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse

Brownfields. The Action Agenda identifies and addresses barriers created by regulations, guidance, and administrative practices, and recommends swift, aggressive measures for change within the context of the existing Superfund law. Our efforts fall into four main categories: 1) Brownfields pilots; 2) clarifying liability and cleanup issues; 3) partnerships and outreach; and 4) job development and training.

Brownfields Pilots

As part of the Brownfields Action Agenda, the Agency plans to fund up to 50 Brownfields pilots during 1996 for up to \$200,000 each. These pilots are intended to provide EPA, states, and localities with useful information and new strategies for promoting environmental cleanup through redevelopment. The Agency is currently funding 28 national pilots—sponsored by EPA Headquarters—and an additional 12 pilots chosen and supported by EPA Regional Offices. ►

BULLETIN BOARD

Check Out These New Regulations

OSWER has published several new regulations affecting tribes in the area of waste management. For information on the following regulations, please contact the EPA Hotline at 1-800-424-9346 or (703) 412-9810

The proposed Indian Authorization rule for RCRA Subtitle C has been given final approval and will be published in the Federal Register soon. Technical questions can be directed to Felcia Wright at (703) 308-8634.

Military Munitions Rule: Hazardous Waste Identification and Management, Explosives Emergencies, Redefinition of On-Site. Proposed Rule, 60 FR 56468, November 8, 1995; technical questions may be directed to Ken Shuster at (703) 308-8759.

Revised Standards for Hazardous Wastes: Agency proposed standards for hazardous waste incinerators, cement kilns, and hazardous waste burning light weight aggregate kilns (61 FR 17358, April 19, 1996); technical questions may be directed to Larry Denyer at (703) 308-8770.

Native American Network Expands Its Coverage!

Beginning with our next issue, the Native American Network will expand its news coverage to represent a wider array of environmental activities within EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER). In addition to its RCRA solid and hazardous waste focus, the Network will feature In-depth articles and Tribal Program Advisory sheets covering activities related to the Superfund program, chemical emergency preparedness, and underground storage tanks. In addition, the Network will continue to cover cross-media items of major significance to these programs. This expansion is part of a major effort by EPA to improve its communication on environmental issues within Indian Country. Please contact Felicia Wright in the Office of Solid Waste at (703) 308-8634, or Charlene Dunn, OSWER, at (202) 260-9466 for more information.

OSW Welcomes New Native American Intern

On September 19, 1995, the USEPA welcomed a new intern to its Office of Solid Waste. Mr. Rides At The Door, an environmental studies major, will be working with the Indian Programs Manager on current Indian environmental issues for the next six months. Mr. Door is a Blackfoot from the Blackfeet Nation in Northern Montana and is also minoring in Native American Studies at Montana State University. Mr. Rides At The Door is participating in a program that EPA and the Environmental Careers Organizations (ECO) has put together for undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students with diverse backgrounds from across the nation, seeking a career in the environmental fields. The relationship between EPA and ECO dates back to 1985 when the Office of Exploratory Research introduced the Minority Institutions Summer Internship Program. The implementation of these programs is aimed at offering training opportunities to college students who are interested in environmental careers. EPA and ECO share many common goals and currently work together on several joint programming activities. For more information, please call Mr. Door at (703) 308-7287.

Final RCRA Public Participation Rule Promulgated

In an effort to empower all communities to become more actively involved in local hazardous waste management, EPA is expanding the public participation aspects of RCRA Subtitle C permitting. EPA promulgated the RCRA Expanded Public Participation final rule (Monday December 11, 1995, 60 FR 63417-63434) which calls for earlier public involvement and expands public access to information throughout the permitting process and the operational life of hazardous waste management facilities. The rule becomes effective on June 11, 1996.

EPA Brownfields Program (cont'd)

To date, the results of these pilots have been quite promising. For example, EPA is already seeing results at the Brownfields pilot in Cleveland, Ohio, awarded in 1992. In Cleveland, \$3.2 million has been leveraged in environmental cleanup and property improvements to the bankrupt and abandoned Sunar-Hauserman site, which now is home to several businesses and 171 new workers. Increased payroll tax payments alone have netted over \$1 million for the local economy. Several national pilots, just announced in July, are already coming to fruition. For example, in Knoxville, Tennessee, a buyer has been found for the first Brownfields site; and a solar technology business has finalized an agreement to locate in the new eco-industrial park, in Cape Charles, Virginia, the Commonwealth's poorest community.

There has been an overwhelming response to the Brownfields Pilot competition. The Agency has already reviewed over 140 applications and we expect to receive more by March 1996, the final application deadline.

Clarification of Liability and Cleanup Issues

Other initiatives that are critical to the success of the program include an effort by the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (OERR) to archive 24,000 sites from the Federal Superfund Inventory (CERCLIS). Among these sites, which are no longer of further federal interest, are thousands of sites having little or no contamination, and sites now addressed by state cleanup programs. We hope that archiving these sites—removing them from CERCLIS—will encourage the cleanup and redevelopment of these properties. In addition, OERR has issued Land Use Guidance ensuring that EPA will consider both future land use during Superfund cleanups and the communities' interests when choosing remedies. This guidance should facilitate expedited and more cost-effective cleanups at Brownfields sites.

Further, guidance clarifying liability for prospective purchasers, municipalities and lenders, issued by the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) and the Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST), will help to remove some of the uncertainties often associated with these properties.

Partnerships and Outreach

OSWER's Brownfields initiative is clearly about partnerships, including partnerships with other EPA offices (e.g., OERR, OUST and OECA), other Federal agencies and a variety of stakeholders. The Outreach and Special Projects Staff (OSPS) in OSWER, which oversees the Brownfields initiative, is also working with the Agency's Common Sense Initiative (CSI) and has identified the Brownfields pilot in Birmingham, Alabama, as an opportunity to link issues being addressed in the iron and steel sector. In addition, EPA's ten Regions have designated Brownfields Coordinators who oversee the Brownfields pilots and other Brownfields initiatives.

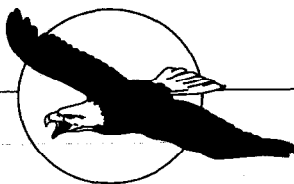
External partnerships with the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) will ensure that state voluntary cleanup programs play an important role in this initiative. Our efforts with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to collaborate in cities designated as Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC) will leverage scarce federal resources. A partnership with the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) continues to provide us with the opportunity to reach communities across the country and receive direct input from citizens about the Agency's Brownfields initiative. And our joining forces with the Department of Labor will provide the important link to our job training.

Job Development and Training

We recognize the need to promote environmental workforce training programs in Brownfields communities throughout the country. The gap between the demand for environmental workforce training and the ability of educational institutions to respond to that demand is growing. EPA, local organizations and community colleges have established partnerships to develop long-term plans for fostering workforce development in Brownfields communities. For example, EPA is working with the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI) to expand environmental training and curriculum development at community colleges located near Brownfields pilot communities. In November, HMTRI, with EPA support, hosted a workshop at the Catonsville Community College in Maryland to assist community colleges from Brownfields cities in developing environmental job training programs. Seventeen of our pilot cities were represented. Initiatives such as this will help to ensure that Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment efforts have the trained workforce needed to revitalize contaminated properties and that local community members are involved in these efforts.

So What Is Next?

As we approach the one year anniversary of the Brownfields Action Agenda, many of the goals we set for ourselves have been accomplished. However, Brownfields redevelopment involves some of the critical issues of our time—urban sustainability, protection of human health and the environment, environmental justice, and its close ally, public participation. This presents a unique challenge for everyone—a challenge we hope to address with the help of others during the year. The first milestone in '96 was a National Brownfields Meeting in Washington, DC, on February 13th-14th, which began identifying opportunities for augmenting the environmental cleanup and redevelopment efforts in Brownfields pilot cities.



Registration Form

Third National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management

KwaTaqNuk Resort, Polson, Montana

May 21-23, 1996

NAME of Participant _____

(please print clearly)

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: Home: () _____ Office: () _____

OCCUPATION: _____

EMPLOYER AND ADDRESS: _____

Are you the designated representative to receive reimbursement? ____ Yes ____ No

Third National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management Registration Receipt

- | | |
|---|----------|
| () Pre-Registration Fee (includes banquet) | \$75.00 |
| Before May 5, 1996 | |
| () On-Site Registration (includes banquet) | \$100.00 |
| After May 5, 1996 | |
| () Extra Banquet Ticket | \$20.00 |

Method of Payment: __ Cash ____ Check (No. _____)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received From: _____ Date: _____

Dollars \$ _____

For: () Pre-Registration (\$75.00)
() On-Site Registration (\$100.00)
() Banquet Only (\$20.00)

Received by: _____

State/Tribal Implementation Rule Proposed

On January 26, 1996, the State/Tribal Implementation Rule (STIR) was published in the Federal Register, and has a 90-day public comment period beginning on this date. The proposed STIR gives Indian tribes the opportunity to apply for EPA-approved municipal solid waste landfill (MSWLF) permit programs, and details the procedures and criteria EPA will use to make permit approval decisions.

Tribal or state permitting programs that are approved by EPA have the option of allowing owners or operators of

municipal solid waste landfills some flexibility in meeting the federal requirements found in 40 CFR Part 258. Tribes or states with unapproved programs are not allowed this flexibility, and must follow the explicit federal MSWLF design requirements. Approved tribes or states can allow alternative landfill designs as long as owners and operators demonstrate that the designs meet federal performance standards. For example, an approved tribe or state could use this flexibility in designing a landfill liner or a final landfill cover.

EPA is seeking comment in the proposed rule on whether the Agency has incorporated suitable criteria and procedures for determining if a tribe's

permit program is adequate. EPA also seeks comment on whether the rule gives appropriate terms for tribal governmental positions, such as Governor, Attorney General, Agency and Director. EPA encourages tribes to submit comments to Docket Clerk, Docket No. F-96-STIP-FFFFF, USEPA Headquarters at Mail Code 5305W, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, District of Columbia, 20460. The telephone number for the RCRA Docket is (703) 603-9230. Instructions for filing comments are included in the proposed rule. For additional information about the proposed STIR, call Mia Zmud in the Office of Solid Waste at (703) 308-7263. ■

Native American Network is published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Solid Waste.

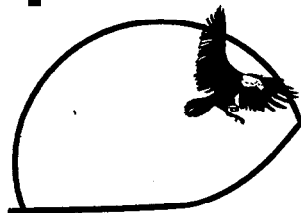
Editor: Felicia Wright (703) 308-8634.

The views expressed in Native American Network are those of the authors. Articles by non-EPA authors do not necessarily reflect or represent EPA policy. The intent of Native American Network is to provide a diverse array of information for those concerned about environmental issues in Indian Country and to provide a forum for regulatory information exchange among tribal governments, EPA, other federal agencies, and state and local governments.

United States
Environmental Protection Agency
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Washington, DC 20460

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TRIBAL PROGRAM ADVISORY



 EPA Office of Solid Waste

Number 3

RCRA Subtitle C and Information Management

Why is Information Management an issue?

What kinds of hazardous wastes are managed at storage facilities? How much waste is being disposed at a land disposal facility? How are facilities complying with federal regulations? How many facilities have RCRA permits? How many facilities have applied for a RCRA permit? These questions illustrate just a few of the many types of information needs that are a necessary part of regulating hazardous waste management facilities under RCRA Subtitle C. How EPA stores, uses and communicates this information is what information management is all about.

With proper information management, people who are directly responsible for implementing the RCRA program can find out what is happening at facilities, and make sure they are taking appropriate action. This information is also important for national program oversight and for responding to questions about the status of the RCRA program (for example, to Congress or the public).

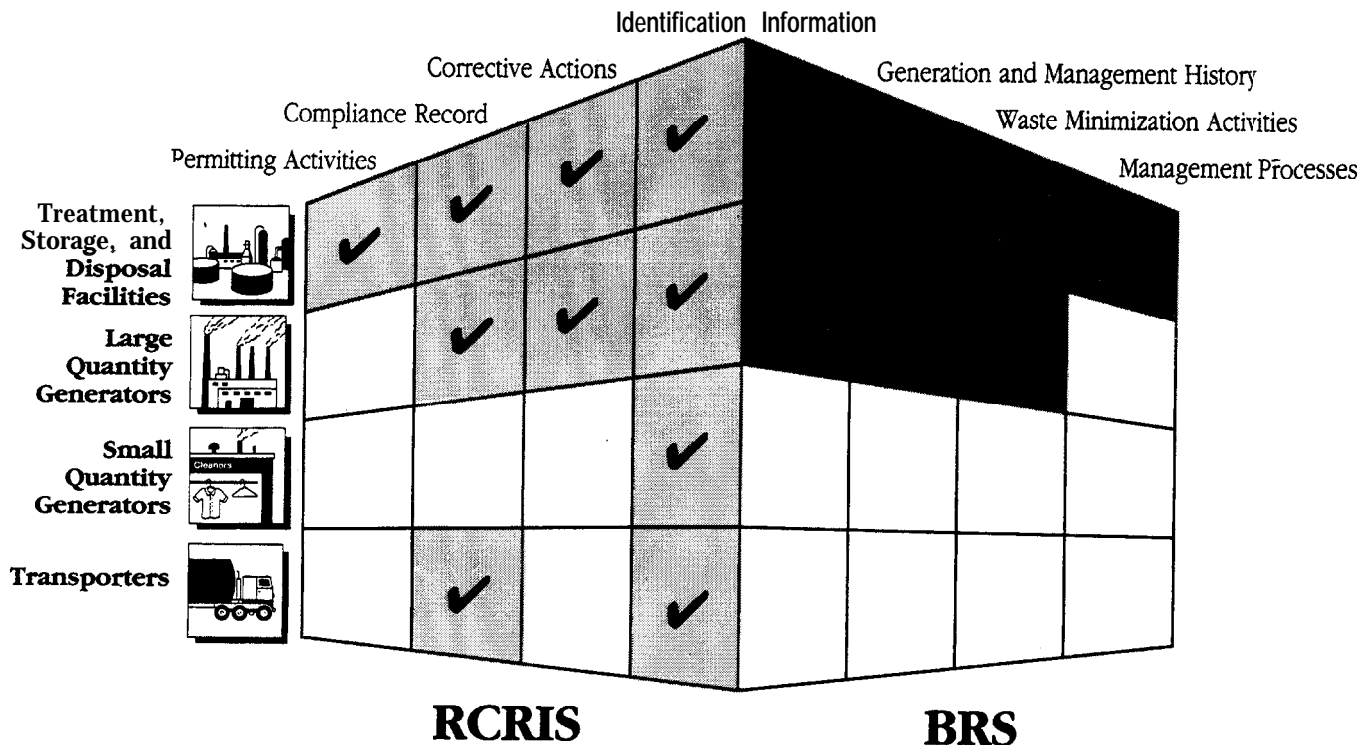
Who takes care of the information?

In most cases, the people responsible for implementing any part of the RCRA program also manage the information about that activity. However, EPA Regions work in partnership with authorized states and tribes (i.e., those authorities who have EPA-approved regulatory programs, and run the programs in lieu of EPA) to facilitate information management and assure that essential core information is available nationally. That means if tribes choose to become authorized for hazardous waste, they will have some responsibility for maintaining information about their programs. Typically information management responsibilities are included in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the EPA Region and the agency authorized to implement the program.

What kinds of systems support information management?

EPA manages two large national data systems for the Subtitle C program. The Biennial Report System (BRS) holds data received from large quantity generators (LQGs) and Treatment, Storage and Disposal facilities (TSDFs) about the hazardous wastes they generate and manage. The BRS is the main source of information

RCRIS/BRS Sources of Information



about what is actually happening at these high priority facilities. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System (RCRIS) contains a broad range of basic facility information as well as details on the status of the regulating activity (for example, when a permit has been issued; whether a penalty has been assessed for a violation; or if corrective action is underway at a particular site). RCRIS is the main source of information about what the program is doing in relation to the regulated community

Is this RCRA information generally available?

EPA uses information from its two national systems to respond to public requests about the RCRA Subtitle C program and regulated businesses. In addition to standard reports available in response to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, EPA is expanding the accessibility and range of information available electronically over the Internet (see inset on this page that explains how to access RCRA information over the Internet). EPA also makes an electronic version of BRS and RCRIS available via the National Technical and Information Service (NTIS). NTIS is currently preparing a CD-ROM which will include national BRS and RCRIS data. For information about NTIS products containing RCRA information, call (703) 487-4650. For more information about RCRA information management issues and EPA's national systems, please call (703) 308-7815 and ask to speak with a member of the Information Access team.

The RTK Net, or Right-to-Know Net, is an electronic BBS containing a user-friendly interface for searching information from EPA databases. The database contains information from the BRS, including the full set of BRS Reports from 1989 through 1993. You can access RTK Net in three ways: (1) by modem, call (202) 234-8570; settings 8, n, 1; at the login prompt, type **public** to register; (2) through telnet, type **rtk.net**; at the login prompt, type **public** to register; and (3) through the web page, type <http://rtk.net/> and EPA will mail out a user's manual.